

Jordan

Information for applicants

Jordan

The country, and the capital city of Amman especially, are currently evolving into a new cultural centre in the Middle East. Jordan is almost completely landlocked, with the exception of a narrow bay in the Red Sea and the eastern shores of the Dead Sea. Young Jordanian artists, a number of cultural initiatives and cafés have imbued the historical capital with a modern flair. Arabic is the official language spoken in Jordan, but almost all signs and shops etc. are also in English. Depending on the region, it is easily possible to strike up a conversation in English with many of the hospitable inhabitants. Some also speak German or French.

Climate and sights

Jordan is 80% desert. The highlands at the edge of the Jordan Depression have a pleasantly Mediterranean climate while the Jordan Valley and Red Sea coast are subtropical. There is no rain between May and September. Spring and autumn are therefore the best times to view the impressive ruins of the stone city of Petra or other historical sites in the country.

Medical care

Medical services in Amman are very good. There are various big private hospitals, such as the Al-Khalidi Medical Center and the Arab Medical Center, whose services have been highly praised in the past. Outside the capital city, emergency

medical care in particular is very basic and not always accessible.

Accommodation and quality of life

The Amman housing market offers a wide range of possibilities, depending on the location and furnishings. However, rent has gone up considerably in recent years. As a rule, foreigners pay higher rents than Jordanians. The best way to find a good place to live is by word of mouth or expat portals.

NB: Check the condition of the water tank, which is usually on the roof, and any heating appliances. Some landlords demand a full year's rent in advance. GIZ can offer a loan in such cases.

Shopping and services

Traditional Jordanian restaurants and foods are good, healthy and affordable. Jordanian cuisine is regarded as being particularly tasty. The costs of imported and European goods, like milk and cheese etc. are comparatively high. Good quality and hygiene are standard everywhere in Amman. There are good supplies of staple foods and all daily commodities in Jordan. Amman, but also other cities such as Irbid and Aqaba, have a large number of supermarkets and malls that also sell a wide range of goods, including European products.

Nowadays, a lot of ATMs accept EC (Maestro) cards, although a fee is charged. We therefore

recommend a credit card that can be used abroad at no extra charge. The maximum amount of money that can be withdrawn from an ATM is JD 250. Up to EUR 10,000 in foreign currencies can be taken into Jordan in cash. Only JD 50 can be brought into the country and a maximum of JD 300 taken out.

Accompanying partners and children

The process of applying for a visa is the same for all family members accompanying GIZ staff (spouse, partner and children). On average, it takes about 6 weeks.

Pre-schools: Amman has a large number of good private nurseries and pre-schools, some of which are attached to schools. Most of the teaching staff speak English.

Schools: Amman has a considerable number of good private international and national schools. School fees depend on the student's grade/year.

There are no German-language schools or pre-schools in Amman. Some schools teach German as an additional foreign language.

Find out more

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/jordanien-node>

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/360.html>

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